Bioinformatics Parks in A.P.

706. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Bioinformatics Parks set up in the different States of the country particularly in the State of Andhra Pradesh, during the last three years;

(b) The number of Bioinformatics Parks proposed to be set up in Andhra Pradesh during the year 2007-2008; and

(c) if so, the necessary steps taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No, Sir. There are no Bioinformatics Parks set up in the different parts of the country including the State of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) and (c) At present, there is no plan to set up such parks in the State of Andhra Pradesh during the year 2007-2008.

Functioning of Scientific Research Organisations

†761. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Scientific Research Organizations working under the Central Government in the country;

(b) the steps being taken by Government for promoting scientific research;

(c) the achievements of these Scientific Organisations; and

(d) the manner of assessment of the functioning of these organizations?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) According to the latest available official Directory of R&D Institutions, there are 707 Scientific Research Organisations in the country working under the Central Government.

(b) The Government have taken various measures for promoting scientific research in the country. These measures apart from higher allocation for scientific research from Plan to Plan include setting up of new institutions for science education and research, creation of centres of excellence and facilities in emerging and frontline areas in academic and national institutes, induction of new and attractive fellowships, strengthening infrastructure for R&D in universities, encouraging public-private R&D partnerships, national awards for outstanding R&D etc.

(c) The Scientific Research Organisations are engaged in diverse S&T areas. Some of the recent significant achievements/initiatives of these scientific organizations include (1) Establishing major research facilities/centres of excellence in frontline areas of S&T; (2) Deployment of state-of-art seismology and geo-physical instruments in peninsular regions; (3) Launching of technology mission mode project in the area of bamboo applications; (4) Launching of Swarnajayanti Fellowship to recognize the work of outstanding young scientists and provide support in project mode with more flexibility; (5) Creation of funds

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.